Import of Palm Oil by NDDB

3285. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Commerce Ministry has agreed to allow the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) to import 20,000 tonnes of Palm oil ;

(b) if so, whether Agriculture Ministry had pointed out that NDDB incurred losses as a result of having to pay its associated dairy federation much higher prices for their skimmed milk powder in 1992-93 ;

(c) if so, whether it was in this view Government was asked to allow it to import edibe oil at a lower duty ; and

(d) if so, what are the other steps Ministry has suggested for improvement in NDDB ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) and (b) The Commerce Ministry has conveyed it's no objection to the proposal of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) to import 25,000 MT of Palmolein in exchange of export of about 10,000 MT of Skimmed Milk Powder, subject to clearance by other Departments/Ministries. The NDDB had procured Skimmed Milk Powder from dairy Cooperatives under its pooling scheme to save them from the glut situation.

(i) The proposal to allow import of Palmolein at lower duty is linked with export of Skimmed Milk Powder.

(d) Does not arise.

Initiative on National Hybrid Development Programme

3286. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI . Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Conference of Agricultural Scientists has recommended Government to take an initiative on National Hybrid Development Programme to speed up research in this regard ;

(b) if so, whether the suggestion of Agriculture Scientists have been considered ;

(c) if so, whether India is all set to enter the exclusive club of hybrid rice producing countries in next Kharif Season ;

(d) whether Hyderabad-based Directorate of Rice Research Plans to release 3 or 4 most promising region specific hybrid rice varities for the first time in the country in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Punjab ;

(e) if so, what is the total area in hectares that will be covered under the rice cultivation ; and

(f) whether all efforts have been made to produce about 200 tonnes of hybrid seeds during Rabi season and will be released to farmers for mass cultivation during the next Kharif season ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) In fact a special project on hybrid research and development on nine selected crops was initiated by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research w.e.f. December, 1989. The National Conference held at Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi during December 6—8, 1993 has rated the outcome of the project as rewarding and hence has recommended that these efforts be supported. Consequently, it is decided by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research to continue the project beyond March 1995 for a further period of two years.

(c) and (d) Three hybrids—two for Andhra Pradesh and one for Tamil Nadu are released by State Variety Release Committee and 3-4 hybrids identification proposals of the Directorate of Rice Research, Hyderabad would be discussed at the Annual Rice Research Workers Group Meeting scheduled to be held at Raipur, M.P.

during March 19—22, 1994 before submission of the release proposal to the Central Sub-committee on Crop Standards and Varietal Notification for their release and notification.

(e) and (f) The area coverage would depend on the potential of hybrids and their scale of adaptability and acceptability by the farmers. Over one hundred technical seed personnel—both of public and private sectors are trained on all aspects of hybrid seed production technology to undertake need based seed production of hybrid rice varieties.

Stoppage of MIO in Edible Oils

3287. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Government have taken a decision to stop the market intervention operations in edible oils on Central Government account ;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether NDDB will stop working after this decision ;

(d) if not, the reasons thereof ; and

(e) what will be the function of NDDB after Government has scrapped MIO ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The term of Market Intervention Operations in oilseeds/edible oils by NDDB is for a period of 5 years, starting from April, 1989 and till March, 1994.

(c) to (e) After expiry of the term of the market intervention operations on Government's account, NDDB will be free to decide on its activities with regard to Dhara marketing and bulk trading in oils.

Consumption of Fertilizers

3288. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that fertilizer consumption during 1992-93 had been fixed at 143 lakh tonnes of nutrients ;

(b) if so, what is the total fertilizer consumption during the above period ;

(c) whether fertilizer consumption was more than targetted in 1992-93 ;

(d) what were the steps taken to meet the demand of fertilizer consumption will be more ; and

(f) if so, what steps are being conidered to meet the demand ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) to (c) The fertilizer consumption during 1992-93 is estimated to be 121.53 lakh MT nutrients against the target of 143.00 lakh MT of nutrients.

(d) to (f) Fertilizer consumption trends during 1993-94 indicate an increase in the sale of nitrogenous fertilizers whereas sale of decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizer has declined.

The demand for controlled nitrogenous fertilizer is assessed in consultation with the State Governments and made available through indigenous production and imports. In order to improve the availability of decontrolled fertilizers the import of such fertilizer has been decanalised. Concession at the rate of Rs. 1,000 per tonne on potassic fertilizer and indigenously produced phosphatic, complex and SSP fertilizers has been continued during 1993-94.

दुग्ध का राष्ट्रीय औसत उत्पादन

3289. श्री एस० एस० अहलुवालिया : क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) इस समय दुग्ध का राष्ट्रीय औसत उत्पादन कितना है और इसमें बिहार की भागेदारी कितनी है;